

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 09744 231818Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /068 W
-----004768 231848Z /50

P R 231737Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4195
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
COMUSFORAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 9744

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MEETING WITH PARTIES

REF: LISBON 9713 (DTG 221734Z DEC 77)

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT EANES IS BECOMING MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVED
IN SEEKING A POLITICAL SOLUTION FOLLOWING THE POLITICAL
PARTIES' FAILURE TO PRODUCE PROGRESS TOWARDS THE FORMATION
OF A SECOND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT EANES BEGAN AN INTENSIVE SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS
WITH THE FOUR MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES ON DECEMBER 23 IN AN
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EFFORT TO END THE POLITICAL STAND-OFF. THE PRESIDENT MET
WITH THE CDS AT 3:30 PM AND IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH THE
PCP AT 5:00 PM, THE PSD AT 7:30 PM, AND THE PS AT 11:00 PM.

2. SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS MEET: FURRTHET TALKS
BETWEEN THE PS AND THE PSD ON DEC 22 DID NOT ALTER THE
CURRENT IMPASSE BETWEEN THE TWO LARGEST DEMOCRATIC PARTIES.

PS SPOKESMAN ANTONIO REIS STATED THAT THE PS AND PSD HAD COME CLOSER TO AN UNDERSTANDING ON A LONG-RUN ECONOMIC PROGRAM. AT THE SAME TIME HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM AND THAT THE ESSENTIAL POINT AT ISSUE WAS THE FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE. HE SAID THAT, IN CONTRAST TO THE TALKS WITH THE PSD, CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CDS AND THE PCP WERE CENTERED MORE ON FINDING SHORT-TERM POLITICAL SOLUTIONS.

3. PSD RESTATES ITS POSITION: A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE PSD'S NATIONAL COUNCIL REITERATED THE PARTY'S POSITION THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE FORMATION OF A SECOND GOVERNMENT. THE STATEMENT BLAMED THE PS FOR ATTEMPTING TO USURP THE PRESIDENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE BY PREEMPTING FOR ITSELF A PREDOMINANT ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE PSD EXPRESSED THE EXPECTATION THAT NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP WOULD PRODUCE RESULTS WITHIN A BRIEF PERIOD.

4. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE IN UNDERTAKING INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PARTIES TO RESOLVE THE POLITICAL CRISIS CAME ON THE DAY HE HAD MARKED AS THE DEADLINE FOR THE PARTIES TO PRESENT THEIR PROPOSED POLITICAL PROGRAMS. THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING FEELING OF DISILLUSIONMENT IN SOME SECTORS WITH THE PARTIES INABILITY TO "MAKE THE SYSTEM WORK" AND THE PRESIDENT'S
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ACTION WILL BE WELCOMED. MEANWHILE THE POPULATION AS A WHOLE IS OVERWHELMING INVOLVED WITH PRE-CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS--ACTIVITIES WHICH PUT EVEN THE POLITICAL STAND-OFF IN SECOND PLACE FOR THE MOMENT.
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Disposition Remarks:
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